



UNVEILING THE DARK WEB CSAM DISTRIBUTION

THE DARK WEB

A hidden network ensuring online identity protection. Unfortunately, it also attracts individuals and groups with the intent to exploit children.

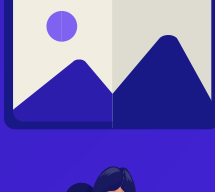
CSAM DISTRIBUTION ON THE DARK WEB

Over **3,000,000** registered accounts on top 10 harmful CSAM sites in 2021. (WeProtect. Global Threat Assessment 2021).



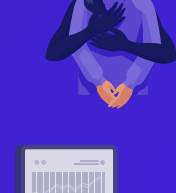
Significant increase in Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) distribution.

HOW THE DARK WEB WORKS



Variety:

Ranges from discussion forums to image boards.



Access:

Initiates must produce new CSAM to ensure complicity and control.



Methods:

Use of bait photos and cyberlocker sites for protection and monetization.

MIGRATION TO THE DARK WEB



Flexibility:

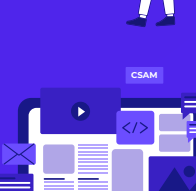
Criminals can migrate to new marketplaces easily.



Reasons:

Improved security and law enforcement crackdowns.

FROM NONSALABLE TO COMMERCIAL



Shift:

Increase in commercial CSAM distribution on the dark web.



Comparison:

Contrasted with surface web content producers.

SCALE OF PRODUCERS



Concentration:

Prolific CSAM sellers associated with top-level distributors.



Monopolization:

A single dark web market accounted for **80%** of cryptocurrency transactions in 2021. (U.S. Department of Justice).

PEER-TO-PEER DISTRIBUTION



Method:

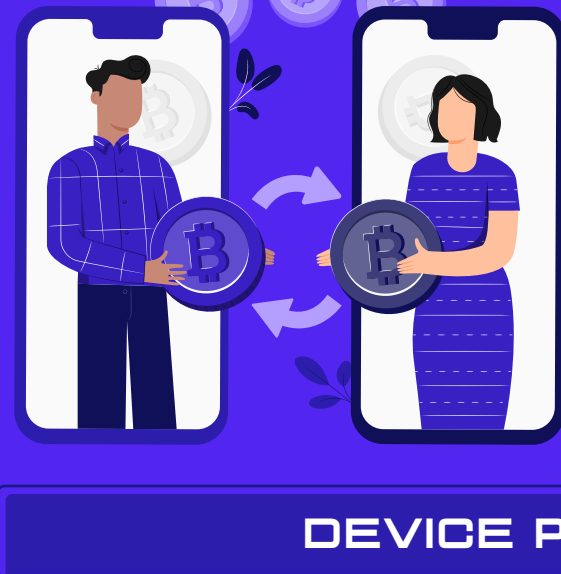
Peers share CSAM through anonymous networks.



Challenge:

CSAM accepted as a form of currency, making tracking difficult.

CURRENCY PREFERENCES



Dominance:

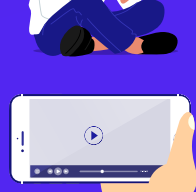
Bitcoin is the most popular, followed by alternative cryptocurrencies.



Anonymization:

Specialized cryptocurrencies developed for enhanced anonymity.

DEVICE PREFERENCES



Tool of Choice:

Smartphones preferred for mobility, cloak ability, and versatility.



Flexibility:

Users can record, store, and upload CSAM while on the move.

CHALLENGES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



Anonymity

Dark web designed for high anonymity.



Encryption:

Strong encryption used for protection.



Global Nature:

Operates globally, making coordination complex.



Evolution:

Constantly evolving, making tracking challenging.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES



Undercover Operations:

Officers pose as potential customers.



Blockchain Analysis:

Tracing cryptocurrency transactions.



Tor Network Monitoring:

Identifying weak points in the Tor network.



Collaboration:

International collaboration to combat global child exploitation.

POLICY CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Establish cross-border coordination.

Criminalize all forms of child exploitation in cyberspace.



Seek a global response for effective anti-CSAM efforts while respecting online privacy.

Ongoing Challenges: Dark web remains a dynamic and evolving environment.



Human Trafficking Front

www.humantraffickingfront.org

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